



**United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan**

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PRESS RELEASE

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MOUNT PLEASANT MAN SENTENCED FOR KIDNAPPING

Barbara L. McQuade, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced that a 27-year-old Mt. Pleasant man was sentenced today by United States District Judge Thomas L. Ludington. Juan Luis Montoya-Pego, a/k/a "Big Guy," was sentenced to 215 months in custody followed by 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty on December 22, 2009, to kidnapping.

McQuade was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge, Andrew G. Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In July 2009, Montoya-Pego struck the victim in the head while he slept. Then, while Montoya-Pego held a knife to the victim's throat, co-defendant Nickol May Jackson bound the victim's legs, arms, and mouth with duct tape and struck the victim in the face. Montoya-Pego then carried the victim outside and locked him in the trunk of a car. After approximately an hour, Montoya-Pego drove the car to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he dumped the victim, who was still bound in duct tape, into an alley.

Jackson was sentenced to 30 months in prison after pleading guilty to assault with the intent to commit a felony for her part in the incident. The case was prosecuted in federal court because both defendants are Indians and the incident happened within the boundaries of the Federal Isabella Reservation for the Saginaw Chippewa Native

American Tribe.

The case was investigated by the Michigan State Police, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police, and special agents of the FBI. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roy Kranz.